(b) if so, what are the reasons for neglecting this concept;

(c) steps proposed to develop "Rest Areas";

(d) whether any specific representation has been received to develop "Rest Areas" in West Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh;

(e) if so, full details of the representation and background; and

(f) whether steps are being taken to implement this suggestion of Rest Areas in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The concept of "Rest Areas" was not included in the national highway work in Andhra Pradesh handles by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). However, certain traffic amenities, such as lay-bye, service road are already forming part of the project.

(c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has earmarked a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs for construction of rest areas along National Highway-5 in West Godavari District.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir.

In his representation dated the 19th May, 1998, Dr. P. Pullarao, Member, National Road Safety Council, has stressed the need for creating wayside amenities on National Highway-5 in West Godavari District. He has been representing for creation of model rest areas in West Godavari District since August 1996.

(f) NHAI is co-ordinating with the District Administration in identifying suitable places for providing rest areas.

Development of Minor Ports in Maharashtra

725. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
PROF. RAM KAPSE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received a proposal from Maharashtra Government for grant of financial assistance for development of minor ports in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal;

(c) the decision taken by Government on the proposal; and

(d) if no decision has since been taken, by when the same is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The proposal received from the Government of Maharashtra was incomplete and therefore, could not be accepted.

Improvement of National Highways in Karnataka

726. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to improve national highways passing through Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details of the money to be spent for their improvement during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The development of National Highways is a continuous process and depends on allocation of funds, which for the year 1998-99 will be decided after Demands for Grants are passed the Parliament.